

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of removing a sticky substance or a waste liquid containing a sticky substance which comprises

mixing a solid substance having inflammability and liquid-absorptivity into ~~the a~~ a sticky substance or ~~the a~~ a waste liquid containing ~~the a~~ a sticky substance wherein these are mixed to allow a liquid component of the sticky substance or the waste liquid containing the sticky substance to be absorbed into the solid substance and to allow the sticky substance to be entangled with the solid substance,

wherein the sticky substance or waste liquid containing the sticky substance is a partially polymerized substance or waste liquid containing a partially polymerized substance generated in a process of production, distillation, purification or storage of an easily-polymerizable substance,

and then removing the sticky substance together with the solid substance or the waste liquid containing the sticky substance together with the solid substance.

Claim 2 (currently amended as dependent to currently amended claim 1): The method according to claim 1, wherein these are mixed to allow a liquid component of the sticky substance or the waste liquid containing the sticky substance to be absorbed into the solid substance and to allow the sticky substance to be entangled with the solid substance, and as a result, stickiness of the mixture is lowered so that the mixture can be handled like a solid.

Claim 3 (currently amended and dependent to currently amended claim 2): The method according to claim 2, wherein the mixture which can be handled like a solid is packed in a bag.

Claim 4 (currently amended as dependent to currently amended claim 3): The method according to claim 3, wherein the packed mixture is burnt.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (Currently amended and dependent to currently amended claim 1): The method according to claim 1, wherein the sticky substance ~~or waste liquid containing the sticky substance~~ is a partially polymerized substance or the waste liquid containing the sticky substance is a waste liquid containing a partially polymerized substance discharged from an equipment for producing methyl methacrylate and/or methacrylic acid, or both.

Claim 7 (Currently amended as dependent to currently amended claim 1): The method according to claim 1, wherein the sticky substance or waste liquid containing the sticky substance is a by-product in a reaction process of petrochemical process.

Claim 8 (Currently amended as dependent to currently amended claim 1): The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid substance having inflammability and liquid-absorptivity is in the form of particle, flake, fiber, powder, chip, string, thread or noodle.

Claim 9 (Currently amended as dependent to currently amended claim 1): The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid substance having inflammability and liquid-absorptivity is a fractured substance made of wood.

Claim 10 (Currently amended as dependent to currently amended claim 1): The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid substance having inflammability and liquid-absorptivity is a cut substance made of paper.

Claim 11 (Currently amended and dependent to currently amended claim 1): The method according to claim 1, which comprises

discharging a liquid having ~~relatively lower~~ reduced stickiness as compared with the stickiness of the initial sticky substance or of the waste liquid containing the sticky substance from a vessel which stores the sticky substance or the waste liquid containing the sticky substance, wherein after discharging the liquid having reduced stickiness, a residue characterized by higher stickiness remains in the vessel,

charging the liquid having ~~relatively lower~~ reduced stickiness which contains a sticky substance into another vessel,

and mixing the solid substance having inflammability and liquid-absorptivity ~~into~~ with the liquid having ~~relatively lower~~ reduced stickiness charged in the said another vessel; ~~and then these are mixed.~~

Claim 12 (Currently amended and dependent to currently amended claim 11): The method according to claim 11, which comprises

mixing the solid substance having inflammability and liquid-absorptivity ~~into the~~ with said residue having relatively higher stickiness in the vessel after discharging the liquid having relatively lower stickiness, and then these are mixed.

Claim 13 (Currently amended and dependent to currently amended claim 1): The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is conducted for maintenance or cleaning of a production equipment or storage equipment, .

Claim 14 (Currently amended and dependent to currently amended claim 13): The method according to claim 13, wherein the method is conducted for cleaning of a tank which stores a reaction waste liquid generated in process of synthesizing continuously methyl methacrylate and methacrylic acid.